MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): What are the *new* industries that have been started ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have already said that I have no information on that matter.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : What are the existing industries that have been developed ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Notification adopting Avoirdupois weight for levying duty on tobacco.

339. **MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI** (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons that prompted them to issue Notification C. No. 525 of 26/Dev., dated the 25th February 1926 ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The Dutch pound equivalent to 42 tolas was used in Government institutions (*bauk-shalis* and customs houses) for the purpose of calculating duty on tobacco. The tobacco licensees and merchants never conformed to it, but used the pound Avoirdupois equivalent to 38 8/9 tolas, in their dealings with the public. They were thus reaping an unearned profit at the expense of the general revenues and of the consumer. The notification has equalised the weights of importation and sale and has also benefited the revenue.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I know why action was not taken by the Government against these merchants under the Weights and Measures Regulation ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : No cases were filed by any party. If any case had been filed, the Government would have taken action.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : May I refer the Member to the answer contained in line 4 ? Under the President's ruling I am not in a position to read it out.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): It was learnt only after enquiry that these weights were not in conformity with the Regulation.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*) : After it was learnt, may I know why action was not taken by the Government under the Weights and Measures Regulation ?

PRESIDENT : There was no offence under the Weights and Measures Regulation and consequently no action could be taken.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the Government ever brought to the notice of the tobacco licensees the necessity for the use of the Dutch pound ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There is no information on that point.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the licensees at any time used the pound Avoirdupois in their dealings with the public?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): By local enquiry, it has been brought to light by the department concerned.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the Government have stipulated any selling price for tobacco?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Government have not fixed any selling price for tobacco.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the Government are aware that their intentions with regard to the profits earned by the merchants will be frustrated if the merchants raise the price?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): By competition the price will naturally come down to the normal level.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): My question is whether the intention of the Government, with regard to the profit, will not be frustrated if the merchants increase the price of tobacco.

PRESIDENT: Will the Member kindly inform us as to what the intentions of the Government are?

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): I am referring to the answer contained in line 6.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I do not understand his question, Sir.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The intentions of the Government are stated in line 6. My question is whether these intentions will not be frustrated.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I rise to a point of order as to whether this question is in order.

PRESIDENT: I find that the Member's question is entirely incomprehensible.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): The intentions of the Government are made clear in line 6 of the answer in the Questions and Answers. If I am permitted, I am prepared to read it.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order as to whether a Member putting supplementary questions is at liberty to answer questions?

PRESIDENT: No; that is just what I was going to say.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Will the Member be pleased to say whether this is additional taxation or not?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): This cannot be additional taxation.

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MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Am I to understand that, when the duty that was paid for 42 tolas, if asked to be paid for 38 tolas, it does not amount to additional taxation?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): So far as the public are concerned, it is not taxation. This is an unearned increment which the merchants were gaining at the expense of the public.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): In view of the fact that the price has been raised, may I know whether the Member is aware that the policy of Government is that this Council should be consulted before imposing fresh taxation?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): I rise to a point of order as to whether this question arises as a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: No, it does not.

MR. S. PIRAVIPERUMAL PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): May I know whether the Finance Committee was consulted before imposing this fresh taxation?

PRESIDENT: The Finance Committee, Mr. Piraviperumal Pillai, deals with expenditure and not with the question of taxation.

Literacy between the ages of 18 and 25.

340. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons between the ages of 18 and 25 who are totally illiterate?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information required by the Member is not available. The attention of the Member is, however, invited to Chapter VIII of the latest Census Report in which statistics for literacy by age and sex are given and from which the figures for illiteracy may be obtained by calculation.

The late Mr. Sankara Aiyar of Karamanai.

341. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Are the Government aware that one Mr. Sankara Aiyar lost his life in a heroic attempt to rescue persons caught in an accidental fire that broke out recently in a street at Karamanai, and if so, will they be pleased to mark their appreciation of his bravery and spirit of self-sacrifice by rendering substantial help to his wife and children said to have been left helpless?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government kindly call for the report from the Police Commissioner?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

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